



A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 61st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
(Including Chino, Montclair, Ontario and Pomona)

FEBRUARY 2004 ISSUE

Dear Friends,

This legislative year will prove to be as intensive as the last. February 20th is the final deadline for introducing new bills. I've finished researching and writing my 2004 legislative package and I am ready to introduce the bills.

In the coming months we will be working hard to resolve the State Budget crisis. There will be long negotiations regarding cuts and revisions. We will also be working on essential reforms of the workers compensation system. I look forward to working with our new Speaker of the Assembly, Fabian Nuñez, and my colleagues to find reasonable solutions for these issues.

I encourage you to check our website and online survey and let us know what issues or concerns are important to you.

CAL GRANT/ FAFSA INFORMATION

On Saturday, January 24, 2004 I hosted a Cal Grant Application Workshop at Ontario High School. High school students and parents from the 61st District attended the workshop to seek assistance in completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and Cal Grant Grade Point Average Verification forms. The workshop was very informative. Attendees learned about eligibility and deadlines.

If interested students and parents missed this workshop, please do not hesitate to contact my district office for additional information at 909-621-2783. Forms are available to be picked up or mailed out. Do not miss the **March 2, 2004 deadline** to receive financial aid.



AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

February is "African American Heritage Month." This month offers us great opportunity to focus our attention on the many contributions made by African Americans. The individuals we honor during February include among others: Jackie Robinson, Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, George Washington Carver, Dr. Dale Hale Williams, and Mary McLeod Bethune.

Pastor Brian Kennedy of Mount Zion Baptist Church in Ontario wrote to me to offer his thoughts on African American Heritage Month:

Thank you Assemblywoman McLeod for encouraging community participation in African American Heritage Month. When properly balanced history helps us to better understand our present. It also gives us courage to contribute to an improved future. African Americans have had a traumatic yet triumphant journey in America. The journey is long from over and will require more diligence, forgiveness, wisdom, faith and divine intervention than ever before.

The great challenge for each of us in our rapid pace environment is that it is difficult to take the time to reflect on the past so that we have a better perspective on the future. Hence, far too many of us are ignorant of and we fail to appreciate the sacrifices others made to secure our current comforts. Moreover this lack of knowledge and appreciation has created a spirit of selfishness and apathy that tends to corrode away progress.

During African American Heritage Month, several organizations like Mt. Zion Baptist Church are committed to fulfilling their responsibility to creatively reflect on the past with future betterment in view. Mt. Zion is 82 years old, and was established as the first "Colored" church in Ontario. This was a clear reflection of the extreme racial conflict back then. Through 82 years of struggle and commitment to the Word of God Mt. Zion has always been a church where all people can come to know Jesus and fulfill the purpose for which they were created.

The community is always welcome at Mt. Zion and For African American Heritage Month.



Left to right: Rev. Lewis Young, Speaker Emeritus Herb J. Wesson, Jr. , Assemblymember Gloria Negrete McLeod, Pastor Brian Kennedy

CELEBRATIONS IN OUR DISTRICT

POMONA – Annual Black Culture Festival at Pomona Civic Center Plaza on February 28, 2004 from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This event is sponsored by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. in conjunction with the Pomona Public Library. This is a free community event. Entertainment, art exhibits, story telling, fingerprinting, and craft vendors will be part of the day's activities. Food and beverages will be served at the event.

Assemblymember Negrete McLeod's Committee Assignments

Chair, Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security Committee
Co-Chair, Legislative Ethics Committee
Appropriations Committee
Governmental Organization Committee
Health Committee
Higher Education Committee
Labor and Employment Committee

Chair, Select Committee on Alameda Corridor East
Select Committee on CA Horse Racing Association
Select Committee on Community Colleges
Select Committee on Future of Farming in CA
Select Committee on Gang Violence and Juvenile Crimes
Select Committee on Groundwater Quality and Availability
Select Committee on Rural Economic Development
Select Committee on Water Management, Storage, Conservation and Supply

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Or visit my website at www.assembly.ca.gov

Please check out our new on-line legislative survey!

If you know of anyone who you think would like to receive these newsletters, please e-mail their name, mailing address and e-mail address, and I'll be happy to add them to my list. If you would like to be removed from our list please reply with the word "remove" in the subject line.